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E-76372

FEB 15 1941

FARM POPULATION *and* RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 1940
JANUARY 1941

VOL. XIV, No. 4
VOL. XV, No. 1

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THIS YEAR IN THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL WELFARE

The work of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare is gathering and interpreting facts about rural people. Its resources are dedicated to the service of planning and action agencies in American agriculture.

During the current year, the land use planning groups sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture have claimed the largest share of the Division's efforts.

County, State, and National planning committees began, two years ago, an inclusive attack upon the problems of rural America. The initial phase of their work has been largely fact-finding. As they have sought plans for the use of this country's farm lands and farm people, they have required facts and ideas about rural people which would help them to understand rural problems. They have required facts about rural populations based upon measurement to help them decide what work should first be done, and how much work should be done, and where it is needed; and they have required facts about rural social organization to help them decide by what means the work they plan may be most handily initiated and carried on. Accordingly, the Division has turned its facilities to their use.

Technicians of the Division and of the co-ordinate branches of the Extension Service, Experiment Stations, and other agencies have met with planning committees at every opportunity and discussed problems with them. When these discussions have suggested to committees that available information would be useful to them, it has been supplied. When discussion suggested to committees a need for information beyond that already at hand, that information has been sought through new researches.

Next most important claimants upon the effort of the Division are the action agencies of the Department of Agriculture and of the Defense Commission. These National agencies, planning improvement or expansion of their programs, have needed facts precisely in the senses that area planning committees have needed facts. They have received the aid of the Division's researchers in securing information bearing upon their operations in rural areas.

In addition, some studies have been designed to anticipate needs for information not yet explicit but certainly implicit in the developing programs of planning and action.

Population and Human Geography

Of primary importance within the Division is its work in the field of population and human geography--gathering and interpreting facts on the numbers of rural people, their characteristics, and their distribution as related to natural resources and economic opportunity.

This work has recently gained in volume. Newly organized land use planning committees have required facts on the size and distribution of local populations which are basic to an understanding of local problems. Economic change has focused attention

on problem areas in which many people are dependent on meager resources; drought and flood have spotlighted maladjustment between population and resources in some regions. War has developed shifts in marketing opportunity and manpower requirements. And all these developments have increased the need for work in the field of population and human geography.

Planning committees have inquired as to numbers of people and rates of population growth within the areas they plan for. Planning committees have also asked significant questions about the meaning of population changes in relation to certain groupings of people; almost invariably they place emphasis on questions concerning the distribution of people within the area considered with reference to larger areas, to land use classes, and to means of subsistence.

The answers to such questions as those mentioned usually provoke additional questions. Many of the county committees which have studied population data seem to reach the conclusion that there are too many farm people. Where this conclusion is reached, other questions are logically suggested: What are the reasons that have brought about that situation? And further, what is meant by the statement that there are too many people?

To meet the needs of planning committees for information, the Population and Human Geography Section has (1) assembled in usable form the data already available; (2) devised methods which committees can use in gathering their own information; and (3) conducted field surveys to obtain information needed by planning committees but not within reach of secondary or untrained researchers.

(1) The large volume of information to be gleaned from the Census and other sources has been put within easy reach of committee members and technicians. A letter outlining the types of population material immediately available from secondary sources has been sent to each State BAE representative. A number of States have taken advantage of this service, and the general response has indicated an increasing interest in the population factors involved in planning. These materials are usually accompanied by interpretive notes which give practical meaning to the data and stimulate discussion of their implications.

With the developing of 1940 Census material, new data will come to hand during the latter half of the fiscal year. Every effort will be made to supply usable information from the latest tabulations to interested groups. This kind of work is a continuing service performed to assist the planning program.

(2) The amount and types of information available from secondary sources is necessarily limited and sometimes badly dated. It must be supplemented vastly by additional information. These factors, plus the incentive to farmer participation in the study of their own problems which democratic planning provides, have emphasized need for the development of techniques whereby county committees can gather and interpret essential population information for themselves. A typical example of the Division's response to this need is the nearly completed project in Warren County, Iowa, in which the Experiment Station, Simpson College, and the Division have co-operated with the county planning committee in an analysis of the relations of people to the land. Similar projects, now in the report-writing stage, have been carried on in Washington County, Rhode Island; Carlton County, Minnesota; and Worcester County,

Massachusetts. New projects of the type are just getting under way in Washington County, Colorado; Eddy County, New Mexico; and Lewis County, West Virginia. In each of these the primary objective is the development of procedures by means of which land use planning committees can participate fully in the analysis of population problems within their counties.

(3) In gathering information of types requiring the use of technically trained personnel, the Division has, where local committees requested it, made brief reconnaissance surveys of population by counties; and where need for information on a broader or more intensive basis was expressed or apparent, the Division has made extended field surveys addressed to special problems or areas. Extended surveys of migration, rural youth, and population pressure are being made.

A survey of new residents on the Pacific Coast being completed this year has brought to light much information on the number, origins, composition, and occupational history of the peoples involved in that most discussed of recent migrations; the survey has also indicated something of the effect of in-migration on the established communities the migrants joined. Some of the preliminary findings of this study have already been made available through publication in periodical, radio, and other outlets; some of the materials have been prepared for Congressional committees; and tabulations of pertinent data by counties have been put to immediate use by planning committees and Federal and State action agencies operating on the West Coast.

A study of population changes in the Northern Great Plains--point of origin of many migrants settling on the Pacific Coast--is now being prepared in report form. A new study has been begun in the Southern Great Plains which is of similar intent. The two Great Plains studies should assess the extent, nature, and effect of population loss in regions of migrant origin. Comparisons of the findings of the three studies--Pacific, Northern Great Plains, and Southern Great Plains--should establish important premises for National, as well as State and regional, planning.

At the request of the Land Grant College-BAE Committee in Utah, preparations are now being made for an exhaustive study of population pressure upon existing resources in that State, and of population mobility resulting from pressure upon opportunity.

Need for information on what is happening to rural youth is reflected in studies already well along in Indiana and Ohio, begun in Illinois, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and proposed in other States. Surveys in one or more selected counties in each of the States named have gathered data on the composition, aspirations, experience, and prospects of the youth groups in the area.

These surveys are sponsored by local youth organizations and usually are carried on with the assistance of NYA personnel. Technical guidance and supervision is provided by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare in cooperation with the Extension Service and the Experiment Station of the State. The surveys are of two parts. The first part of the work takes an inventory of rural youth within the age group selected for study--usually 18 to 25 years. Information is obtained by interview on education, employment, home life, health, organized activities, the individual's own ideas on problems faced, etc. The second phase of the survey inquires into opportunities for rural youth, including both agricultural and nonagricultural

possibilities; it studies changes in the pattern of farming within the area including tenure, labor requirements, and other related developments bearing on access of youth to opportunity. An estimate of future trends is attempted.

Special youth problems within the larger framework of population pressure will be given special study in the more extensive Utah study of population pressure previously mentioned.

Heavy out-migrations of young people as well as accumulations in excess of employment opportunities have been apparent in Utah. Of the 24 Utah counties making land use planning reports in 1939, 11 had organized special youth-problem subcommittees, and these have been inquiring into the lack of opportunities for rural youth and their exodus from home communities and the State. The State Land Grant College-BAE Committee likewise has been concerned, and this group has suggested questions on which the study will attempt to garner facts: What areas are losing population? To what areas are the migrants from Utah going? What age and occupational groups are leaving the State? To what extent is the lack of economic opportunity resulting in the "backing up" of rural youth on Utah farms, and in the excessive subdivision of those farms? To what extent are there differences in the incidence of lack of opportunity and migration among youth who live on farms, on the edges of towns, or within towns?

Through the cooperation of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the Department of Public Instruction, this study will include a State-wide survey of rural youth, their education, employment, and migration. A schedule will be taken from all pupils in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in the State public school system. Special problem areas revealed will be studied further for analysis of family income, type of farming, social participation, and other factors vital to youth but beyond the practical reach of the school survey method.

These youth studies may yield information of value not only to planners in the areas surveyed, but, when analyzed and compared, to planners of regional and national programs.

Community Organization and Changes

Planning committees, the Extension Service, State Experiment Stations, and other interested agencies have asked the Division to help them analyze social organization in rural areas and identify vital rural groups. These agencies have felt that only by obtaining the active participation of groups already functioning as groups can planning be representative and vigorous.

Under this impetus, much of the effort of the section on Community Organization and Changes has been pointed toward the perfection of techniques for finding the outlines of community organization which planning committees would find usable.

The logical first step in community analysis is work in neighborhood and community delineation. With the natural groupings of people marked out, a sound basis for democratic representation--and full participation--is established. That this is widely understood is indicated by the number and distribution of counties in which delineation has been undertaken or completed: Washington and Cumberland Counties, Maryland; Culpeper County, Virginia; Caswell County, North Carolina; Grant, Hopkins, and Garrard Counties, Kentucky; Roane County, Tennessee; Lee and Chilton Counties,

Alabama; Columbia County, Florida; Yell County, Arkansas; Warren and Adair Counties, Iowa; Ross County, Ohio; Racine, LaCrosse, and Burnett Counties, Wisconsin; Washington County, Colorado; Adams County, Nebraska; Hand County, South Dakota; Campbell County, Wyoming; Eddy County, New Mexico; Covington County, Mississippi; Lincoln Parish, Louisiana; and others.

Division technicians have assisted in the delineation of neighborhoods and communities by three means: first, by guiding and assisting local committees in doing the work; second, by training State personnel through demonstrations to continue with the work alone; third, by doing the work, making sure the local committee understood why and how the work was done.

The means used is determined by local conditions. The first method is preferred, for it is desirable that farm people should understand the processes of their planning--and participation in the work is the best assurance of understanding. The delineation of their own social groupings is a thing they can well do with a minimum of instruction. Where this is not feasible, the Division complies with requests for other types of aid.

Succeeding phases of work leading toward an understanding of community organization and action have been undertaken this year in a few counties. Where committees grasp the importance of community groupings as keys to participation, they have logically followed up with a desire for a deeper knowledge of social processes. This follow-through work includes analysis of the rural community as a working group--the things that make it hold together, the nature of its leadership, the ways in which people come to participate in its life. Such work is now being done in Kentucky, Ohio, and Iowa. As community delineation work progresses in the various areas, studies of the functioning of communities will naturally acquire greater emphasis.

A third step in the study of communities as social organisms has been initiated by the Division in anticipation of explicit requests. In six selected communities scattered over the country, Division personnel has tried to assess the effect of some powerful forces now at work in rural areas upon the ways of rural life. The community was chosen as the area for investigation because it is within the framework of community life that one is able most intimately to observe the process of change in habits and ideas, to determine the stability or instability of various individual and social habit patterns under stress, and to assess the strength or weakness of various types of social adjustment.

Investigators have spent four months as residents of the communities studied, observing and interviewing, and they have supplemented observation with analysis of secondary source material. Such studies were made this year in New England (Grafton County, New Hampshire), in the deep South (Putnam County, Georgia), in a closely-knit religious (Amish) community (Lancaster County, Pennsylvania), in the corn-hog belt (Shelby County, Iowa), in the dust bowl area (Haskell County, Kansas), and in a Spanish-American community of the Pecos Valley (San Miguel County, New Mexico). Completed reports should be available early in 1941.

It is expected that at least three additional community studies will be undertaken during 1941 in communities reflecting the influence of industrial development upon rural life.

The field manual, prepared as a guide for these studies of changing community life, will be revised in the light of the past year's experience to include a more highly developed definition of objectives and exposition of techniques.

Using a similar approach to the study of community life, work has also been begun in Greene County, Georgia, and Kern County, California. Both of these latter studies are sponsored by the Farm Security Administration in an effort to acquire a better understanding of factors affecting their programs of rehabilitation. In making them, a history of the community, a knowledge of the origins of the people, cultural patterns brought with them, and adaptations made to the local situation is obtained; the organization of the community, the type and extent of formal and informal association, the relationship of people to the land, sources of income, and the processes of community integration and disintegration are studied. In the report, the whole is woven into a coherent picture of community life.

Other community organization studies are attempting to analyze the interaction between specific institutions and a changing community life.

As part of more comprehensive researches in Ward County, North Dakota, and Hand County, South Dakota, where depopulation and economic dislocation has followed drought, an attempt is being made to determine the effect of community change upon type and distribution of institutions. State experiment stations and land use planning organizations have joined the Division in this effort to understand the adjustment of institutional patterns to changing community needs.

In Maine, Rhode Island, and Texas, the effect upon farming and rural life of the development of recreational areas--the extent to which farm people use the recreational opportunity, the effect upon farm people of retirement of actual or potential farm land to recreational use--is being explored. In these latter studies the National Park Service, State Experiment Stations, and State planning groups are cooperating.

Levels and Standards of Living

County land use committees are often asking for information on levels of living in their areas. Action agencies and researchers focusing on projects in related fields require data on levels of living with some degree of comparability with other such data. To meet their need the Division is at present working intensively on development of a levels of living index which can be used widely with a minimum of cost. During the current year field schedules for use with this index are being tried out in several places and improvements made from these experiences. Levels of living surveys are included in projects in Lancaster County, Nebraska; Washington County, Colorado; Hand County, South Dakota; Ross County, Ohio; and Eddy County, New Mexico. Surveys in New Hampshire and Maryland are in prospect.

For the guidance of social action, facts on standards of living are almost as important as facts on levels of living. The Division is exploring methods of measuring standards of living. In Maine this year, farm women associated with the planning program, working with technicians from the Division, undertook to describe standards-of-living which farm families in that State set for themselves. At a series of community meetings among farm women, sponsored by Home Demonstration Agents, subareas within each community were marked out and classified as to living conditions on a scale of good, fair, or poor. A series of indices prepared at the State College were

applied to standardize the results from the various communities to permit comparison. Subjective evaluation of living levels were then compared with objective criteria and areas of deficiency outlined. The data obtained were plotted on land classification maps to show the relationship between farm living standards and classes of land. This study has been used as a pattern for a similar survey in Hand County, South Dakota.

The Division is cooperating in a study of housing conditions among FSA clients in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas which was initiated at the request of Farm Security Administrators. Schedules obtained by FSA Home Supervisors have been tabulated and personnel from the two agencies are collaborating in analysis of data. A study of housing conditions among agricultural migrants in California and Arizona is in process.

Labor, Tenancy, and Rehabilitation

To meet the needs of county planning groups which have expressed an interest in local farm labor problems, to extend a general knowledge of farm labor backgrounds which may stimulate and direct planning group interest, and to supplement present knowledge of the variety of labor problems in the various type of farming areas, reconnaissance surveys of farm labor in a number of widely distributed counties are being made this year.

Chief interest of this survey is the trend in total need for farm labor associated with changes in the use of machine power. The study also seeks indications of the relative importance of farm family labor and hired labor in the various types of farming areas, of the efficiency of customary methods of labor mobilization and direction in areas requiring large supplies of wage labor, of the volume and seasonal distribution of wage labor employment, of the sources of labor supply, of prevailing wage rates and customary perquisites, of the level of housing and health facilities, of extent of participation in community life by farm laborers, of the various attitudes toward labor adjustments among the several groups involved.

At the request of the county land use planning committees, the Nebraska Experiment Station and the Division have cooperated on a study of land tenure and its relation to land use and community activities in Box Butte County, Nebraska. The objectives of this study include an examination of prevailing land tenure arrangements; the relationships between type of tenure, land use, and conservation of soil; the social and economic conditions of tenants as compared with owners and part-owners; the relationship between tenure status and participation in community activities; and the possibilities for improvement in tenure arrangements through changes in local practice or changes in State tenure legislation.

A study of agricultural labor and farm tenancy in Missouri is now being made with the cooperation of the State Agricultural Experiment Station and the Farm Security Administration. The principal area of study is in the southeastern cotton-growing counties where the FSA is carrying on an extensive program of rehabilitation. Changes in tenure arrangements and changes in the social and economic status of agricultural labor associated with introduction of machine power, Federal and State action programs, and differing types of land use will be investigated.

Several studies of the rehabilitation process are included in the Division's program for the current year. A study of standard borrowers on the rehabilitation program of the Farm Security Administration will involve analysis of data from a sample totaling 43,500 borrowers located in every State and nearly every county in the country. The analysis is being carried forward in cooperation with other interested agencies in the Department.

Tabulation plans are nearing completion. The tables are planned to answer four major groups of questions: (1) What were the borrowers' social and economic characteristics at the time they applied for their first standard loan, and what were their receipts and expenses during the crop-year before receiving the loan; (2) what action was taken by the Farm Security Administration through its loan, grant, and related activities to rehabilitate the borrowers; (3) what progress has been made by borrowers since coming on the rehabilitation program in terms of such factors as increased net worth, increased assets, increased income, larger farms, improved tenure status and leasing arrangements, and repayment of loans; and (4) what social and economic characteristics are associated with progress or lack of progress?

Publication plans include a report for each region covering all phases of the study; reports for specialized aspects of the study, such as agricultural finance and farm management, covering all regions; and an over-all summary report. Data are being made available for administrative use as rapidly as tabulations are completed.

Two intensive studies of public assistance are being made in connection with the land use planning program, one in Boone County, Nebraska, and the other in Hand County, South Dakota. The history of relief extended in these two Great Plains counties will be related to classifications of land, types of farming, and other factors; the data will be used by planning committees in recommending adjustments.

In the Southern Great Plains the Division is cooperating in the collection and analysis of farm and home data on FSA clients. Information will be obtained from FSA records and by interview. Work is now going on in Kansas, Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico in cooperation with the Experiment Stations and Extension Services in those States. The principal purposes of this study are to provide a coordinated approach to the collection and analysis of farm management and sociological data needed in the land use planning program and by Federal and State agencies, and to establish a benchmark against which progress in the rehabilitation program can be measured.

For a number of years State colleges and the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture have collected data from farmers and have assisted them in keeping records of their farm business and family living to serve as bases for analysis of both individual farm problems and those characteristic of specific areas. There has been much duplication and repetition in the collection of farm and home data for a variety of purposes, and this study has been devised as a means of obtaining and making available to interested agencies a coherent analysis of the wealth of material contained in the records on file in the area, supplemented by that provided in farm-kept accounts. From the informational base now being obtained periodic check-ups can be made later in the development of plans for improvement in the rehabilitation program.

The measurement of success attending the relocation of farm families from Government-purchased lands is the subject of studies in New York and several southern

and western States. The Government's continuing efforts to retire submarginal lands, control flood waters, and conserve the soil, require an understanding of the process of re-establishing farm families on new and better farms, or by other means, as is sought in these studies. Recent National Defense activities have re-emphasized the need for greater effort in this direction, and the Division has responded to the fullest extent of its facilities.

Social Psychology and Cultural Anthropology

The chief work of the section on Social Psychology and Cultural Anthropology for the following months will be in relation to problems which may arise through the prospective settlement of the Columbia Basin. The 1,200,000-acre irrigation project of the U. S. Reclamation Service in the Columbia Basin contemplates the settlement during the next 25 years of some 15,000 farm families. Settlement will probably not begin before 1942. The development is one of National interest and importance, affecting many agencies and many sections of the country. In conjunction with several other agencies, work is going forward on the planning of settlement procedures.

To bring to bear upon the problem the best available information and experience, a series of studies known as the Columbia Basin Investigations has been established and 30 relevant problems have been defined for study. The Division has been asked to assist in bringing together available information and to conduct additional studies along three lines:

First, pattern of settlement, involving comparisons of the relative advantages or disadvantages, social and economic, of different settlement types. Data are being collected on compact village, line village, nuclear hamlet, and dispersed settlement types.

Second, standards and levels of living that are significantly related to problems of financing disadvantaged families and size of holdings. These studies are to be conducted in those areas in which population pressures and migration are such as to indicate them as probable source areas of Columbia Basin settlers.

Third, studies devised to determine the nature of and demand for "part time" farming units on the project. This will be handled largely through analysis of conditions and trends on areas of comparable development.

Analysis of library and record material has been completed and field studies were begun during November. Final reports are due by June 1941.

As a follow-up to the tenure study in Box Butte County, Nebraska, an analysis of attitudes and relationships in farm tenure has been started in that State. This work will be closely related to the levels of living survey now going on and will be pointed particularly to a determination of attitudes and human relationships of school children in homes on different classes of land and under different conditions of tenure. The Nebraska Public Schools Department and the Experiment Station are assisting in gathering and analyzing information needed.

A study of ethnic groups in rural Connecticut will provide information on the location of the various ethnic communities within the rural areas of the State; on

the similarities and differences in settlement patterns, social organizations, and types of adjustment among these groups; and on variations in degree of solidarity among them. Some work has been done previously on this subject by the Experiment Station at Storrs, and at present the Station is conducting a study in two towns. The present project has been undertaken to supplement that of the Station and to broaden the scope of the work. Finnish, French-Canadian, and Italian settlements are being surveyed this year.

Some special studies are being made in the historical backgrounds of contemporary problems that are essentially sociological or cultural in character. These investigations when completed are expected to test some of our present theories concerning the direction or evolution of our rural society, and at the same time to provide further explanation of forces of tradition and change that are now at work. Studies are now being made that are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the influence of increasing commercialism and economic specialization upon the social phases of rural life. The first of these, now approaching completion, will be an analysis of the farm management plans and practice of a selected group of high ranking farms in New York State in the years 1845-61 with particular reference to the relationship to non-economic aspects. Others that have already been started deal with the effects of rising land values upon rural social stability in several sections of the corn and dairy belt States and the Eastern Great Plains.

Organization of Work

Present demands upon the Division from the planning and action agencies tax the resources available to it. The Division's organization is designed to obtain maximum efficiency in meeting these demands for service and research without sacrifice of that flexibility which can result in action on the variety of subjects by the variety of methods just described.

Under its present organization, the subject matter specialists in Washington assist and direct the field staff in the seven area offices wherever field work in their specialty is done.

Effort has been made to adapt the types of work to the types of need encountered. Ordinarily work is thought of as being of three types: "technical guidance," "service," and "research." *Technical guidance* is a phrase used to designate the type of assistance rendered by the visits of specialists and experts with planning committees and action agency administrators. It includes suggestion and discussion flowing from a familiarity with the body of knowledge accumulated in the field of the specialist rather than from a study of a new situation from the ground up. Often it helps a committee to recognize and isolate specific social problems faced, and from a fusion of farmer and technician thinking the relation of social to physical and economic problems is determined and means of exploring them worked out.

Service is a term used to designate the brief, summary aids which the specialist may render in response to the need of a planning committee or action agency. The supplying of Census materials, the reconnaissance surveys of population, the interpretative notes accompanying these materials from the section devoted to population and human geography, previously described, would be examples of the service type of work.

Research includes the more thorough and intensive original surveys. The Pacific Coast study of migration or the six community organization studies aimed at assessing the effect of social forces currently at work in rural communities, which have been described earlier in this report, are typical.

These three types of work may normally follow one another, in the order in which they are named, as the Division aids a specific group in coming to grips with a single problem in a single area. The phrases designate, for the sake of convenience in discussion, simply degrees of intensity in the Division's efforts to help planning and action agencies understand, and measure the extent of, rural problems.

In the initiation of Division effort, planning and action agencies are playing a greater part than ever before. In the prosecution of the Division's work, State colleges, Experiment Stations, and other agencies are playing an increasingly important role as partners.

Even in its service functions, technicians of the Division work in close cooperation with the Experiment Station department most concerned with work in the field of rural sociology. Research projects are prepared and carried through, whenever possible, with both the Experiment Station and the Division contributing funds and personnel. Usually joint project leadership is established. This cooperation involves participation as nearly equal as can be obtained in every stage of the project, from its beginning to its completion, with Experiment Station and Division personnel jointly defining the problem, preparing the statement of objectives and outline of procedures, and in the actual research effort, including the analysis of data and the preparation of a report. By so doing, the facilities of both Federal and State agricultural agencies are pooled for the best possible attack on problems of concern to both.

From time to time the Division may be engaged in projects of regional or national significance which are beyond the boundaries of any one State in scope. In such instances the cooperation of each State in which work is to be done is solicited and frequently secured. But in some cases, because of the nature of the work or budget limitations, State Experiment Stations find it impossible to assist in the investigation of some pressing situation. In such cases the Division proceeds alone on these wider operations. In all of these situations, however, local cooperation is sought, even though it consists merely of advice and counsel.

The Division has attempted to develop a program which encompasses a full breadth of practical service toward the solution of the country's problems in rural welfare. This program includes a range of work varying from brief technical contacts and discussions to comprehensive studies of most important problems. It combines activities in response to specific requests from those engaged in promoting a better agriculture and a better rural life with those directed toward objectives not as yet recognized, or only partially so, among these groups. In total, it comprises a practical contribution from rural sociology as a professional discipline.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Farm Labor and Tenancy¹

"Sharecroppers and Wage Laborers on Selected Farms in Two Counties in South Carolina" [49] were studied with a view to determining the extent and consequence of recent shifts in tenure status. Data were gathered by personal interviews with 414 operators, sharecroppers, and wage laborers during 1937 and 1938. The study indicated that the economic status as reflected in cash incomes of the sharecropper and wage families was more closely related to the size of family than to tenure status. However, the change from cropping to wage labor often meant a sharp decline in family income from home-use goods and perquisites. Increased production of home-use goods is "probably the best means for these groups to improve their economic status, regardless of tenure status." The larger the family the greater was the income from home-produced goods.

"The Sugar Cane Farm--A Social Study of Labor and Tenancy" [85] is based upon personal interviews with 100 owners, 328 resident laborers, tenants, and sharecroppers, and 303 nonresident laborers on 100 farms each of which reported 30 or more acres of cane in 1936. The sample was so taken that it was assumed that the 100 farms ranging from 30 to over 1,000 acres were typical of those of the entire sugarcane area in Louisiana. Findings indicate that planters preferred resident laborers although nonresident laborers contributed one-third of the total days of common labor during the year, and more than one-half during harvest months. All resident laborers received perquisites, the most common of which were house, garden space, wood, use of teams, and farm implements. Only one-third of the nonresident laborers received perquisites. The bulletin describes the organization of the plantations, the sex, race, age, and other characteristics of the laborers, wage rates, and owner, laborer, and tenant relations.

Land Use and Recreation

"Use of Recreational Sites Developed on Federal Submarginal Land-Purchase Areas in Maine" [87] is based upon card questionnaires received from drivers of cars entering six parks during an average 30-day period. Information obtained from the analysis of the cards indicates that the areas from which the clientele of the parks is drawn, describes their occupational and income levels, age, time of arrival, and number of persons in each party.

These facts taken together with the analysis of the patron's suggestions for improvements constitute useful data for the guidance of that new and important industry of New England--recreation.

Rural Communities and Organizations

"Alabama Rural Communities, a Study of Chilton County," [22] is a study of white and Negro rural communities in one Alabama county. The major purpose of the bulletin is to assist local groups in visualizing and analyzing their own neighborhoods and communities as a basis for agricultural planning. Communities are analyzed from the

¹Complete citations will be found in the bibliography, beginning on page 21.

standpoint of business, political, educational, and agricultural considerations, as well as from what is called the "all-around view" which deals with neighborhoods and "natural" communities. The significance of the social view for the businessman, minister, county agent, welfare worker, educator, and editor is outlined. A brief description of each of the communities, accompanied by a series of maps and pictures, is followed by a chapter entitled "Why not learn more about the communities of your county?" The appendix includes a statement about population trends, a brief history of the county, and a statement on the methodology used in defining the service areas which serve as a base for delimitation of the communities.

"Education in Transition" [51] is the third of a projected series of 10 bulletins carrying the general title, "Basic Trends of Social Change in South Dakota." Based upon State and Federal censuses and school data, the study indicates a sharp decline from 1930 to 1938 in persons of school age and children enrolled in elementary schools due to out-migration and decreasing birth rates. The extent of needed school reorganization becomes evident when it is realized that in some 9 counties elementary school enrollment dropped over 40 percent. In 1939-40, 20.5 percent of all rural schools in the State reported 6 or less pupils. The study traces the growth of child and adult education from pioneer times to the present and offers recommendations for readjustment.

The Bureau of Government of the University of Michigan, after studying the government of a typical Michigan cut-over county, recommends in its report, "Local Government in Cheboygan County," [38]: (1) the uniting of many local units, consolidation of school districts on the community school district plan, and the abolition of townships; (2) substitution of a small board of three to seven members elected in the county-at-large for the 26-member board of supervisors now elected by townships, and city wards; and (3) overhauling of the administration of the property tax so that it would be based upon the county as the assessment district with uniform procedures worked out by one assessor rather than separate assessments made by many persons in the many local units.

Problem Areas and Planning

"The Situation and Prospects of the Population in the Black River Settlement, Louisiana" [34] is the description of a "troubled" disadvantaged rural area in which destruction of crops and drowning of livestock by backwaters of the Mississippi, Red, and Black Rivers is almost an annual occurrence. Despite extremely low levels of living, as reflected by shabby, small houses, lack of screens, primitive sanitation, lack of medical care, low educational status, dependency, and meager incomes, the people have not sunk to the depth of the worst rural slums. Their mutual assistance during flood seasons has led to group integration and neighborliness which, along with their exceptionally high birth rate, should be considered in plans for rehabilitation. The study, which is based upon a house-to-house canvass of 97 white and 40 Negro families, analyzes population composition, occupational and economic structure, family types, and educational status, and sets forth a plan for rehabilitation.

"Hill Land and People in Ross County, Ohio" [45] is the title of a report prepared by the Ohio State University Department of Rural Economics at the request of the Ross County Land Use Planning Committee. By personal interview "data were collected to show the present pattern of land use on each land holding, potential future use, volume of crop production, livestock kept, condition of buildings, size of households,

occupation of persons in each household, number of children in school, and lastly, the opinions and attitudes of the people in respect to the application of various types of governmental aid to each land holding." The findings of analysis of 98 attitude responses indicated that the established food habits of these hill people are so crystallized that a program of government improvement should be preceded by some educational work to emphasize the advantages of an additional variety of vegetables. Recommendations for land use are made in the light of the characteristics of the resident population, which, because of the high birth rates and the tendency of employables to seek work elsewhere, is heavily weighted by young and old dependents.

Rural Youth

According to "Child Labor Facts, 1939-1940," [68] a report of the National Child Labor Committee, "The employment of children in agriculture, in fact, is one of the most serious of all child labor problems. It involves more and younger children than any other occupation, interferes seriously with school attendance, and is a difficult problem to control through legislation." The publication presents data on the extent and conditions of child labor and labor legislation.

"Summer Vacation Activities of One Hundred Farm Boys and Girls in a Selected Area" [64] is the title of a Columbia University Teachers College publication based upon personal interviews with 50 boys and girls 10 years of age, and questionnaires filled out by teachers and rural leaders. The study describes work, play, and general recreational activities of these 100 children who lived in a rural New York county, and makes comparison with other studies where possible. Among activities investigated were the types of books, and other material read, types of radio programs enjoyed, games played, and sports and social contacts participated in. The study concludes that the children should be assisted in making better use of their vacation times and their environments.

"Paths to Maturity," [48] a National Youth Administration and Work Projects Administration report of "Findings of the North Carolina Youth Survey 1938-1940," is based on interviews with some 44,963 white and Negro youth from 6 to 22 years of age in 8 counties. Besides the personal interviews, teachers furnished information concerning income status, intelligence, recommendations for occupations for the children, and much other information. Except in the city of Durham, where Work Projects Administration employees secured some of the information from a sample of the youth, committees of adults and special National Youth Administration agencies collected data for most of the youth of the designated ages.

Among the many findings concerning the recreation and recreational choices, occupations and occupational choices, church and school participation, earnings, health, personal and social relationship problems of the children, and pertinent information concerning the parents are the following: (1) Twenty percent of the white and 52 percent of the Negro families with children were reported to have annual incomes under \$500. There was a high positive correlation between the incomes of the parents and their educational status. There was little relation between intellectual ability and income of parents as reported by teachers. The children from families of highest incomes were most frequently church members; (2) nearly one-half of the youth go to church once a week; (3) only one-half of the white and one-fourth of the Negro fathers of the families with youth had completed grammar school, (4) by their fifteenth birthday 4 out of 10 of the whites and about one-half of the Negro children

had left school; (5) in neither group are as many as three-fourths of the children retarded; (6) about one-third of the high school students did not know what they wanted to do as a life work; (7) about one-half of the youth wanted to have white-collar jobs. Very few of those now employed had such jobs; (8) there was great disparity in the professions the teachers thought suitable for the students and the students' choices.

To show the nature and extent of variation in high school participation between "center districts" (those having a village or town center containing a 4-year high school) and "open-country districts" in Washington County, Arkansas, [25] permanent high school records and family enumeration reports for a 10-year period (1927-28 through 1936-37) were studied. It was found that from the 115 open-country districts, containing 80 percent of the farm population of the county, only 11 percent of the potential high school enrollment (children 14 through 17 years of age) were enrolled, while in the 14 central districts more than 60 percent were enrolled. Some of the factors related to this disparity were found to be: accessibility of the high school, quality of the elementary school teaching (as measured by length of session, salary of teachers, and tenure and training of teachers), revenue for school operation (which varies with property values, tax rates, and extent of tax delinquency), and the closely related factor of economic status.

Population Studies

"Natural Increase in the Population of New York State" [41] when the population as a whole is considered does not exist. In fact the index (based upon the ratio of children 0 to 4 years old to each 1,000 women 20 to 44 years of age) used in an experiment station bulletin, the third of a series of bulletins on New York population, indicates that it is only the total rural population, including farm and nonfarm rural, which is replacing itself. The effects of these trends upon institutions, communities, population quality, and other factors are discussed.

Miscellaneous

The sixth [89] of a series of publications on "Rural People and Agriculture," edited by W. Seedorf of Goettingen University, deals with the peasantry and large landed estates of a minor civil division in Pomerania and the tenure and farming patterns during the last six centuries. The study which is based primarily upon historical writings, documents, and other secondary data gives most space to pre- and post-World War resettlement or colonization and the reforms of the nineteenth century which resulted in the freeing of the serfs followed at first by population increase and later by decrease in replacement rates.

EXTENSION REPORTS

Dr. D. E. Lindstrom reporting from Illinois says, "During the first week of September we held a series of district rural life conferences on what organizations and agencies in rural life can do to help young people get started in farming and established in community life. Approximately 350 rural leaders attended the eight conferences and the forum held at the University. Talks were given by Dean H. P. Rusk and D. E. Lindstrom on the role of voluntary education; Mark Rich and A. H. Rapping on the role of the church; Joe Ackerman, of the Farm Foundation, and H. C. M. Case on economic factors affecting securing a farm; and Otis Keeler, of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Irving Pearson, Executive Secretary of the Illinois Education Association, on the role of rural education. We had some very favorable comments on these district conferences and a request for a return engagement. Several counties have patterned county rural life conferences after these district conferences.

"In October and early November we are to hold a series of conferences on 'What Makes a Good Rural School,' sponsored by the Illinois Rural Education Committee in which the Extension Service thru the Division of Rural Sociology, various State teachers' colleges, and other organizations are cooperating. The morning session will be a panel discussion on 'What Makes a Good Rural School,' at which the Director of the Department of Taxation and Statistics of the Illinois Agricultural Association, an assistant superintendent of public instruction, a rural teacher, a rural minister, a county superintendent of schools, a member of the rural education department of the teachers' college, a school board member, a Parent-Teacher Association member, a rural parent, and the University of Illinois rural sociologist are to be members. The afternoon will be turned over to a statement by the president of the college and demonstrations of rural teaching. The meetings are to be held at each of the State teachers' colleges, and the morning program will be broadcast over a nearby radio station.

"Our community relations seminars which are state-wide, including representatives of all organizations and agencies having a state-wide influence, continue to be held. The last was held in September on youth counseling and guidance and resulted in setting up a state-wide youth counseling and guidance committee on which representatives from industry, labor, farm organizations, education, and similar groups have been selected for representation. The next seminar will be held in December on needed school legislation.

"Community leader conferences for program planning and officer training will be held in approximately 40 counties this fall. All types of rural groups are increasingly taking advantage of this service; for example, in DeWitt County the home bureau unit, community club, community unit, Parent-Teacher Association, and similar groups were among the groups present at the all-day conference."

Professor Polson, Cornell University, writes, "From the sociologist's point of view, the New York Land Use committees are accomplishing some of the same objectives as have the County Agricultural Conference committees that have been in operation in the State for several years. This is particularly true where the Land Use committees conceive of their job as including the social and economic phases of rural life as well as technical soil saving practices. Population trends material compiled by the

Extension Sociologist, the Experiment Station Sociologist, and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare has been furnished several county Land Use committees. In addition to basic population data, requests have been received for information about the problems of people on poor land. As a result a research project on Families on Submarginal Land Areas was begun this summer in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare."

NOTES

Division Notes

"During the first six months of 1940, 28,864 persons in parties 'in need of manual employment' entered Arizona and 35,150 such persons entered California by motor vehicle. These numbers include men, women, and children, with an average of approximately 5 persons per motor vehicle counted.

"As compared with previous years, the number of such migrants entering California during the first half of the current year is considerably larger than the number arriving during the corresponding months of 1936 and 1939, but substantially less than the migration during the peak years of 1937 and 1938.

"In large part, the movement of people 'in need of manual employment' into California and Arizona during the first six months of 1940 evidently represents a continuation of the distress migration to these States which characterized the decade of the 1930's. The direction of movement is still predominantly westward. Nearly three-fourths of the persons counted moving into Arizona entered the State from the east. More than 70 percent of the migrants to California entered from Arizona and an additional 20 percent entered from Nevada. Southbound migration across the Oregon border amounted to less than 10 percent of the total movement into California. *Moving eastward out of California into Arizona were 7,447 persons, somewhat less than one-third as many as were counted moving into California by the same route.*"

This statement is taken from the second in a series of quarterly reports analyzing the count maintained by the Arizona and California Plant Quarantine Inspectors of persons, members of parties "in need of manual employment" entering these States by motor vehicle. The California border count was begun in June 1935, at the instance of the Farm Security Administration and has been maintained continuously since that date. In January 1940, the Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture began a similar count at the request of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Both counts are analyzed in the current series of quarterly reports prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Changes in the field personnel of the Division included the following:

M. Taylor Matthews is now in charge of the office in Atlanta, succeeding John B. Holt.

Earl Bell, formerly of the University of Nebraska, has been placed in charge of the office in Amarillo, succeeding T. G. Standing who is now in charge of the office in Little Rock.

Harold Hoffsommer, who was formerly in charge of the Little Rock office, has now returned to full time work at Louisiana State University.

Varden Fuller is acting in charge of the office in Berkeley while Davis McEntire is on leave at Harvard University.

Lloyd Fisher, formerly associated with the Flood Control Work in the Far Western region, has been detailed to work on the Columbia River Basin Project.

Arthur Raper, formerly with Commission of Inter-Racial Cooperation, has joined the staff to make a study of the social effects of recent developments in the agriculture of Greene County, Georgia--one of the two counties which he studied as a base for his book, "Preface to Peasantry."

Charles P. Loomis will be on leave of absence beginning February 1 in order to join the Department of Sociology at Harvard University during the second semester. He will offer courses in Social Organization and Population Problems, and will also participate in the work of the Littauer School.

T. J. Woofter, Jr., formerly Economic Advisor in the Farm Security Administration, and in charge of Rural Research in the Work Projects Administration, has been appointed Director of Research in the Federal Security Administration. Dr. Woofter began his new duties on January 2.

Federal Notes

Additional circulars in the "County Land Use Planning" series [8] issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in cooperation with other agencies are. "Pooling Ideas in Land Use Planning," No. 5; "Communities and Neighborhoods in Land Use Planning," No. 6; "Rural Zoning and Land Use Planning," No. 7; "Planning Committees Cooperate with Local Governments," No. 8.

See July issue of Farm Population and Rural Life Activities for earlier circulars.

"Northern Great Plains," [20] a report of the National Resources Planning Board, gives an inventory of activities of various action and research agencies in this area which has suffered from seven years of drought. Of special interest to rural sociologists is the description of the population and land use studies being conducted by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare.

State Notes

Mrs. Mattie Cal Maxted, formerly of the Social Work staff at the University of Oklahoma, has been added to the University of Arkansas faculty to give courses in rural social work. A special attempt will be made to fit the social service training to existing farm programs so as to make them more effective. The course will endeavor to add to the effectiveness of Extension workers, Farm Security workers, and other people dealing with farmers by teaching them interviewing, techniques of handling individuals and groups, and similar phases of social service practice. Preparation will be given for public welfare work and other public assistance activities. The course will also be preparatory to professional training in established schools of social work.

A grant has been made by the General Education Board to assist the rural sociology section at the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station in a three-year study of Rural Population Changes in Kentucky. Direction and supervision of the project will be in the hands of Robin M. Williams, Merton D. Oyler, and Howard W. Beers, staff members in Rural Sociology. A general treatment of background data for secondary sources will be implemented with field studies in migration, standards of living, and family growth in relation to land division. Some analysis of unpublished Census materials is also contemplated.

Plans are now under way for a more intensive study of farm family living in the intensive and unified counties selected by North Carolina. This work has been made possible by the recent expansion of the Department of Rural Sociology in the College to include a Division of Extension Studies. The tentative plans which will be subjected to some experimentation call for a short schedule to be filled for at least 10 percent of the farm families of each county studied. The schedules will be filled on a voluntary basis by county and community committees. Two types of questions will be included. The first type will consist of a small number of factual questions relating to present levels of living. This question will be selected in such a way that the facts obtained may be combined into a simple index of level of living. The second type of question will be of an evaluative or opinion character.

New opportunities for research and graduate training in rural sociology and related social sciences have been made possible by a grant of funds from the General Education Board. Among other things, a new department of rural sociology has been created. At present the staff consists of Dr. C. Horace Hamilton, Head, formerly Senior Social Scientist in the United States Department of Agriculture, and Selz Mayo, Assistant Professor. The new department has functions corresponding to the three major divisions of the college, namely, teaching, research, and extension.

The work in rural sociology has been strengthened by the establishment of a statistical laboratory under the direction of Dr. Gertrude M. Cox, who until recently was Research Assistant Professor, Statistical Section, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station. Another significant development is the plan for coordinating the graduate work in rural sociology and agricultural economics in the Greater University of North Carolina, thus making it possible for graduate students to take a wide range of courses and to use the research facilities of all units of the Greater University.

Dr. Hamilton, the head of the new department, was Professor of Rural Sociology in North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering from 1931 to 1936 and Economist in Rural Life in the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station from 1936 to 1939. Until September 1940, he was Senior Social Scientist in the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Rural Sociology Division of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in collaboration with the Virginia Population Study under the State Planning Board has undertaken an intensive study of the State's agricultural labor requirements under given conditions and the labor available in farm families. One of the points of central interest in this project is the population sustaining power of given areas in relation to standards of living. Allen D. Edwards, Associate Rural Sociologist, will devote most of his time to this study. Charles G. Burr succeeds Allen Edwards as State Supervisor of the Virginia Rural Youth Survey.

A comprehensive Virginia Population Study under the auspices of the State Planning Board and financed by the General Education Board has been started under the direction of Lorin A. Thompson with the assistance of Frank Lorimer and a panel of nationally known population students as consultants. This undertaking is an outgrowth of a meeting in Roanoke in the fall of 1939 arranged by the Experiment Station Division of Rural Sociology to consider the results of its marginal population studies, a meeting attended by representatives of 31 state-wide organizations and institutions.

Personnel changes:

James E. White, M. S., Iowa State College, Joseph W. Geddes, M. S., Utah State College, and Mrs. Edith J. Freeman, M. S., Cornell University, have been appointed to Research Assistantships in the Department of Rural Sociology at Cornell University. Irwin T. Sanders of Alabama State College for Women is now Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Kentucky. Robert L. McNamara of South Dakota State College is Assistant in Rural Sociology at Ohio State University, succeeding Howard R. Cottam, who is now Assistant Professor of Sociology at Pennsylvania State College. Edgar C. McVoy, Research Assistant in Rural Sociology at the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station the past year is Instructor in Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. Robert M. Dinkel, Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota, is Instructor in Sociology at DePauw University, Indiana. A. G. Tannous, having completed his graduate work at Cornell, is now Instructor in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Kenneth J. Ekdahl, Kansas State College, Charles W. Nelson, University of Oregon, and Fred A. Winkler, State College of Washington, have been appointed as Research Fellows in the Division of Rural Sociology at State College of Washington.

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Reviewed and Received

FEDERAL

- [1] *Report of a Reconnaissance Survey of Neighborhoods and Communities of Caswell County, North Carolina, with Recommendations.* by John B. Holt, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Aug. 1940, 8 pp.
- [2] *Planning for the Farmer: A Short Reading List of Free and Inexpensive Material,* Economic Library List No. 12, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., July 1940, 5 pp.
- [3] *The Scope of Land Use Planning.* County Planning Series No. 4, Prepared by Bur. of Agr. Econ. and Others, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1940, 7 pp.
- [4] *Farm Tenant Improvement; Landlord-Tenant Cooperation and Leasing Procedure,* by Inter-Bureau Coordinating Committee on Farm Tenure, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., May 1940, 64 pp.
- [5] *The People of Kit Carson County, Colorado,* by T. Wilson Longmore, Colo. Agr. Exp. Sta. in Cooperation with the Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Aug. 1940, 16 pp.
- [6] *Rural Housing; Functions and Publications of the United States Department of Agriculture in the Field of Rural Housing,* U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., April 1940, 11 pp.
- [7] *Methods of Halting Unnecessary Rural Migration.* by W. W. Alexander, Testimony before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., May 1940, 20 pp.
- [8] *Living and Working Conditions of Migratory Farm Workers in the Florida Vegetable Area,* by John Beecher, Testimony before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., May 1940, 14 pp.
- [9] *Migrant Farm Labor. The Problem and Some Efforts to Meet It.* Farm Security Adm., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1940, 14 pp.
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[17] *Mortality Rates and Economic Status in Rural Areas*, by Harold F. Dorn, U. S. Public Health Reprint 2126, Washington, D. C., 1940, 8 pp.

[18] *Relief of Needy Indians*, Hearings before the Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives, U. S. Congress, Washington, D. C., 1940, 87 pp.

[19] *The Plantation South Today*, by T. J. Woofter, Jr., and A. E. Fisher, Social Problem Series No. 5, W. P. A., Washington, D. C., 1940, 27 pp.

[20] *Northern Great Plains*, National Resources Planning Board, Washington, D. C., May 1940, 44 pp.

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